



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/804,383	03/13/2001	Kenneth Hinckley	03797.00060	1177

28319 7590 02/23/2004

BANNER & WITCOFF LTD.,  
ATTORNEYS FOR MICROSOFT  
1001 G STREET, N.W.  
ELEVENTH STREET  
WASHINGTON, DC 20001-4597

EXAMINER
----------

ZAMANI, ALI A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2674

9

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/804,383

Applicant(s)

HINCKLEY ET AL.

Examiner

Ali A. Zamani

Art Unit

2674

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 February 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1- 31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 2674

### DETAILED ACTION

The indicated allowability of claims 25-29 and 31 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference (Clark et al., West et al and Gerpheide). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

<sup>6-30</sup>  
Claims 1-3, ~~4, 8-9 and 21-30~~ are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over West et al. (US Pat. No. 5,831,597) in view of Clark et al. (US Pat. No. 5,995,101).

In regard to claims 1, 6, 8-9, 18-19 and 30, West discloses a computer system including an auxiliary control (254) and displaying, a method comprising the steps of: detecting a first physical presence proximate to a first auxiliary control (254); and which the first auxiliary control (254). Furthermore, West discloses a an input device (250) which includes touch sensor pads (58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72) which directly detects when a physical presence (user) touches the device or its control input device (mouse 254), generate a feedback, when the user breaks physical hand contact (Figs 1-4, col. 4, lines 3-15).

West does not teach or suggest a “ tool tip associated with display”. However,

Clark discloses a display including tool tip (50, 60) as providing information is displayed when a user points with a pointing device (mouse), to an area of the graphical display associated with function (col. 1, lines 44-60). Furthermore, Clark teaches that one level of information (a first-level tool tip) is displayed when a user points with a pointing device (mouse) to an area may b of the display (28) and a subsequent (a second level) tool tip is displayed if the user continues to point to the area for a predetermined amount of time or presses a selected keystroke. Also, the second-level tool tip may replace the first-level tool tip in the display (28), and the second-level tool tip may include more or different types of information than the first level tool tip, including text (the functionality and status of an auxiliary controller generates a feedback to user) (col. 1, lines 45-63).

Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify West's (Fig. 7) to incorporate Clark's display including tool tip (50, 60) for providing detailed information about functions with icon or other control areas appearing in computer user interfaces.

In regard to claims 2, 5 and 30, Clark discloses that Clark teaches that one level of information (a first-level tool tip) is displayed when a user points with a pointing device (mouse) to an area may b of the display (28) and a subsequent (a second level) tool tip is displayed if the user continues to point to the area for a predetermined amount of time or presses a selected keystroke. Also, the second-level tool tip may replace the first-level tool tip in the display (28), and the second-level tool tip may include more or different types of information than the first level tool tip, including text, a video clip, or an audio clip (the functionality and status of an auxiliary controller generates a feedback to user) (sound feedback) (col. 1, lines 45-63).

Art Unit: 2674

As to claim 3, West teaches that other computer components, such as a keyboard or mouse or any other available port of computer can be connected directly or indirectly through the input device (25) (Fig. 7, col. 2, lines 24-29).

In regard to claims 9-15, Clark discloses that Clark teaches that one level of information (a first-level tool tip) is displayed when a user points with a pointing device (mouse) to an area may b of the display (28) and a subsequent (a second level) tool tip is displayed if the user continues to point to the area for a predetermined amount of time or presses a selected keystroke. Also, the second-level tool tip may replace the first-level tool tip in the display (28), and the second-level tool tip may include more or different types of information than the first level tool tip, including text, a video clip, or an audio clip (the functionality and status of an auxiliary controller generates a feedback to user) (sound feedback) (col. 1, lines 45-63). Clark also discloses tat computer users are able to obtain detailed information about the function associated with a control area, such as a tool bar icon, simply by pacing and leaving the cursor in or near the control area; the amount and type information provided may change frequently unless the user takes an action indicating that the user no longer wants to receive the information and the information may be presented in text, video, audio, or virtually any other medium (col. 2, lines 1-5) and the information provided at a given too tip level may disappear when an associated timeout interval expires (col. 3, lines 20-35). West et al. discloses a pad (22) with six touch sensors (28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42), generates their electrical signals based on actual contact between the user and a portion of the sensor or based on extreme proximity between the user and the sensor (release event) (Figs. 1-4).

Art Unit: 2674

In regard to claims 16 and 17, West discloses a an input device (250) which includes touch sensor pads (58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70 and 72) which directly detects when a physical presence (user) touches the device or its control input device (mouse 254), generate a feedback, when the user breaks physical hand contact (Figs 1-4, col. 4, lines 3-15).

As to claim 21, West discloses a computer system (280) has a keyboard (284) including the first auxiliary control (see Fig. 7).

As to claim 22, West discloses a computer system (280) has a pointing device (294) including a first auxiliary control, which is a button (Figs 6 and 7).

In regard to claims 23-24, West discloses a method, wherein the first auxiliary control is a combination of keys (284) or a single button (294) (Fig. 7).

In regard to claims 25-26, Clark teaches that multi-level tool tip provides information in a graphical display about a particular function of a program executing on a computer system and one level of information is displayed when a user points with an auxiliary control (mouse) (col. 1, lines 44-50), the information may be presented in text, video, or virtually any other medium (word processing (col. 2, lines 5-8).

As to claim 27, Clark teaches a method, wherein the step of detecting comprises detecting the first physical presence (first level tip) for a first predefined period in which both the first auxiliary control and a pointing device maintain an inactive state (Fig. 1, col. 2, lines 29-40).

In regard to claims 7, 28 and 29, West teaches that other computer system components such as a keyboard or mouse (second auxiliary control), can be connected directly or indirectly

Art Unit: 2674

through the input device of (254) (see the abstract) and Clark teaches a multi-level tool tip (50, 60) (Figs 1-3, col. 2, lines 30-60).

Claims 4-5 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over West-Clark et al. in view of Gerpheide (US Pat. No. 6,473,069).

In regard to claims 4-5 and 31, the combination of West-Clark does not teach or suggest a “tactile feedback responsive to step of detecting”. However,

Gerpheide discloses a method for providing tactile feedback to a user moving his/her finger across the touch-sensitive surface of a touchpad. Gerpheide teaches that the different input devices allow for various sensing apparatus of the touch-sensitive devices to detect the finger and translate movement of the finger into corresponding movement of a cursor on a display screen and the greatest feedback occurs when using touchpads operated by a user’s finger (col. 2, lines 41-49).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize the method of Gerpheide in the computer system of West-Clark to provide a method and apparatus for providing tactile feedback for electronic touch-sensitive computer input devices which can operate with a user’s finger as the only pointing object.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Zamani whose telephone number is (703) 308-6414. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Art Unit: 2674

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard A. Hjerpe, can be reached on (703) 305-4709.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, DC 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

Ali Zamani

February 04, 2004



**RICHARD HJERPE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**